

NSI RUMENATION AMPLIFIERS XTR101

XTR101

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BURR-BROWN

## **4-20mA TWO-WIRE TRANSMITTER**

### **Precision, Low Drift**

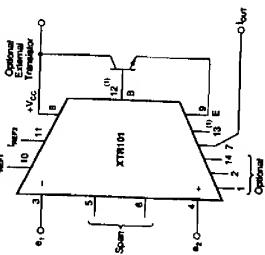
## FEATURES

- INSTRUMENTATION AMPLIFIER INPUT
    - Low Offset Voltage, 30mV max
    - Low Voltage Drift, 0.75µV / °C max
    - Low Nonlinearity, 0.01% max
  - TRUE TWO-WIRE OPERATION
    - Power and Signal on One Wire Pair
    - Current Mode Signal Transmission
    - High Noise Immunity
  - DUAL MATCHED CURRENT SOURCES
    - Wide Supply Range, 11.5V to 40V
    - 40°C to +45°C SPECIFICATION RANGE
  - 14-PIN DIP PACKAGE, CERAMIC AND PLASTIC  
  - INDUSTRIAL PROCESS CONTROL
    - Pressure Transmitters
    - Temperature Transmitters
    - Millivolt Transmitters
  - RESISTANCE BRIDGE INPUTS
    - Thermocouple Inputs
    - RTD Inputs
  - CURRENT SHUNT (mV) INPUTS
    - DUAL CURRENT SOURCES
  - PRECISION MANUFACTURING
    - AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING
  - POWERPLANT ENERGY SYSTEM MONITORING

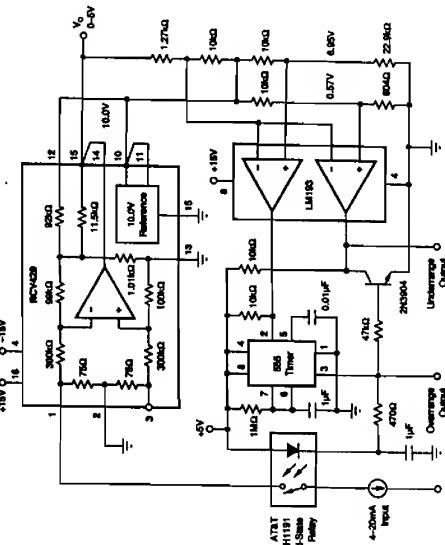
## DESCRIPTION

The XTR 101 is a microcircuit, 4-20mA, two-wire transmitter containing a high accuracy instrumentation amplifier (IA), a voltage-controlled output current source, and dual-matched precision current reference. This combination is ideally suited for remote signal conditioning of a wide variety of transducers such as thermocouples, RTDs, thermistors, and strain gauge bridgeheads. State-of-the-art design and laser-trimming, a wide temperature range operation and small size make it very suitable for industrial process control applications. In addition, the optional external transistor allows even higher precision.

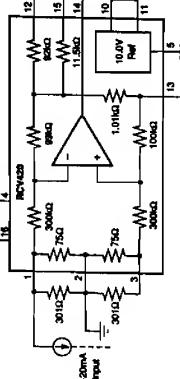
The two-wire transmitter allows signal and power to be supplied on a single wire pair by modulating the power supply current with the input signal source. The transmitter is immune to voltage drops from long runs and noise from motors, relays, actuators, switches, transformers, and industrial equipment. It can be used by OEMs producing transmitter modules or by data



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See Application Bulletin AB-014 for more details.

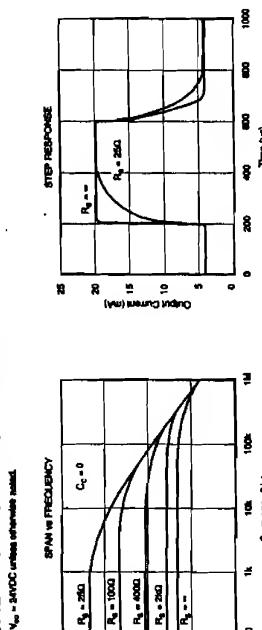


See Application Bulletin AB-018 for more details.

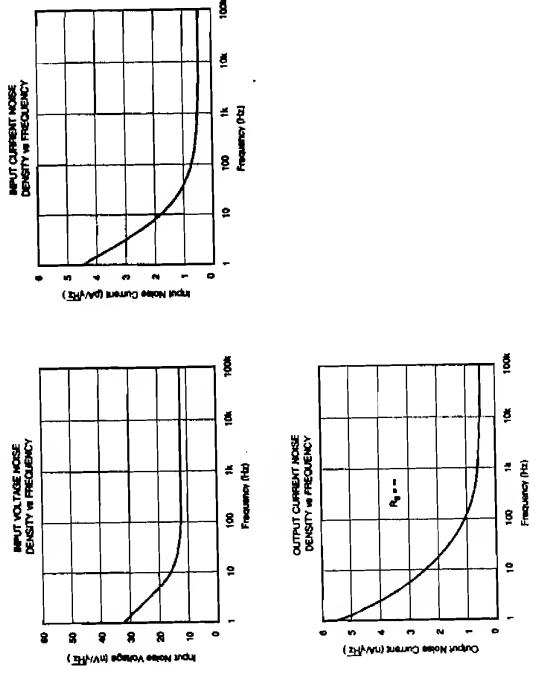
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## TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CURVES



## TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CURVES (CONT)

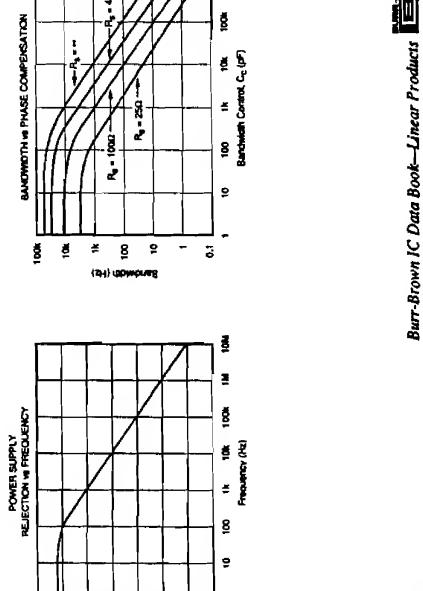
 $T_c = 25^\circ\text{C}, V_{IN} = 20\text{mV}$  unless otherwise noted.

## THEORY OF OPERATION

A simplified schematic of the XTR101 is shown in Figure 1. Basically the amplifiers,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , act as a single power supply instrumentation amplifier controlling a current source.

Operation is determined by an internal feedback loop,  $c$ , applied to pin 3 will also appear at pin 5 and similarly  $c_2$  will appear at pin 6. Therefore the current in  $R_{A_1}$  and  $A_2$ , Operation is determined by an internal feedback loop,  $c$ , applied to pin 3 will also appear at pin 5 and similarly  $c_2$  will be  $I_1 = (c - c_1)/R_1 = c_o/R_{A_1}$ . This current combines with the current,  $I_2$ , to form  $I_1$ . The circuit is configured such that  $I_1$  is 19 times  $I_2$  from this point the derivation of the transfer function is straightforward but lengthy. The result is shown in Figure 1.

Examination of the transfer function shows that  $I_0$  has a lower range-limit of 4mA when  $V_{IN} = c_1 = 0$ . This 4mA is composed of 2mA quiescent current existing pin 7 plus 2mA from the current sources. The upper range limit of  $I_0$  is set to 20mA by the proper selection of  $R_2$  based on the upper range limit of  $V_{IN}$ . Specifically  $R_2$  is chosen for a 16mA output current span for the given full input voltage range, i.e.  $(0.0160 + (4/2)(V_{IN} \text{ full scale})) = 16mA$ . Note that since  $I_0$  is unipolar,  $c_1$  must be kept larger than  $c$ .



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XTR101  
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$c_1 \geq c$ , or  $c_1 \geq 0$ . Also note that in order not to exceed the output upper range limit of 20mA,  $c_1$  must be kept less than 1V when  $R_2 = \infty$  and proportionately less as  $R_2$  is reduced.

INSTALLATION AND  
OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

## BASIC CONNECTION

The basic connection of the XTR101 is shown in Figure 1. A difference voltage applied between input pins 3 and 4 will cause a current of  $4/20mA$  to circulate in the two-wire output loop (through  $R_2$ ,  $V_{IN}$ , and D). For applications requiring moderate accuracy, the XTR101 operates very cost-effectively with its internal driver transistor. For more demanding applications (high accuracy in high gain) an external NPN transistor can be added in parallel with the internal one. This decouples the base out of the XTR101 package and minimizes thermal feedback to the input stage. Also in



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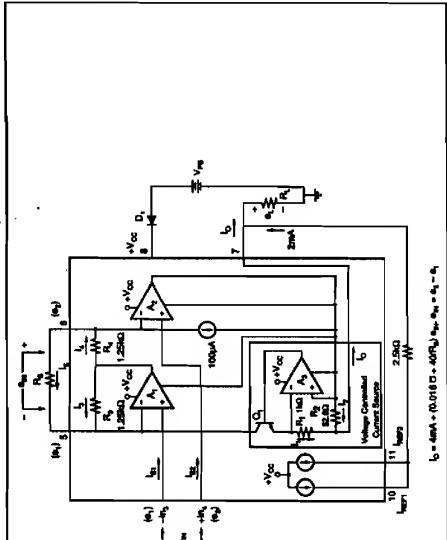


FIGURE 1 Simplified Schematic of the XTB101.

In applications where  $\epsilon_{in}$  full scale is small ( $<50mV$ ) and  $\epsilon_{out}$  is small ( $<150\Omega$ ), caution should be taken to consider errors from the external span circuit plus high amplification offset, drift and noise.

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OPTIONAL EXTERNAL TRANSISTOR  
If optional external transistor, when used, is connected with the XTR101's internal transistor. The purpose is to increase accuracy by reducing heat change inside the XTR101 package as the output current goes from 4-20mA. Under normal operating conditions, the internal transistor is completely turned off as shown in Figure 2. This maintains frequency stability with varying external transistor characteristics and writing capacitance. The actual current sharing between internal and external transistors is dependent on two factors: (1) relative geometry of emitter areas and (2) relative package dissipation (case size and thermal conductivity). For best results, the external device should have a larger base-emitter area and smaller package.

## ACCURACY WITH AND WITHOUT EXTERNAL TEST INSTRUMENTS

The XTR101 has been tested in a circuit using an external transistor. The relative difference in accuracy with and without an external transistor is shown in Figure 3. Notice that a dramatic improvement in offset voltage change will be evident from these results.

MAJOR POINTS 10

- CONSIDER WHEN USING THE XTR101**

  1. The leads to  $R_{101}$  should be kept as short as possible to reduce noise pick-up and parasitic resistance.
  2.  $2.2\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  should be bypassed with a  $0.01\text{-}\mu\text{F}$  capacitor as close to the unit as possible (up to  $8\text{--}10\text{ mm}$ ).
  3. Always keep the input voltages within their range of linear operation,  $-4\text{V}$  to  $+6\text{V}$  ( $I_{\text{G}}$  and  $I_{\text{S}}$  measured with the input voltage  $V_{\text{IN}}$ ).

FIGURE 2. Power Calculation of XTR101 with External Transistor.

**NOTES:** (1) An internal trimmer is used in the manufacturing test circuit to setting accuracy to  $\pm 1\%$ .  
(2) The test set is used for the 7412222 with  $V = 24V$  in limit current condition.

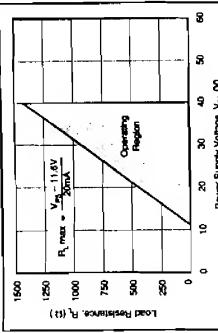
FIGURE 3. Thermal Feedback Due to Change in Output

4. The maximum input signal level ( $V_{IN}$ ) is 1 V with  $R_S = \infty$  and proportionally less as  $R_S$  decreases.

6. Always choose  $R_L$  (including line resistance) so that the voltage between pins 7 and 8 ( $+V_{CC}$ ) remains within the

5. Always return the current references (pins 10 and 11) to the current (pin 7) through an appropriate resistor. If the current is not returned to the reference pins, the output voltage will be 11.6V to 40V range as the output changes between the 4-20mA range (see Figure 4).

7. It is recommended that a reverse polarity protection diode (D1 in Figure 1) be used. This will prevent damage to the DTR10 caused by a momentary (e.g., transient) or long-term application of the wrong polarity of voltage between the output pins (pin 1 and pin 2).



EGL102E 4 Power Supply Operations Range

6. Always choose  $R_L$  (including line resistance) so that the voltage between pins 7 and 8 ( $+V_{CC}$ ) remains within the

11.6V to 40V range as the output changes between the 4-20mA range (see Figure 4).

7. It is recommended that a reverse polarity protection diode (D<sub>1</sub> in Figure 1) be used. This will prevent damage to the XTR101 caused by a momentary (e.g. transient) or long term application of the wrong polarity of voltage between



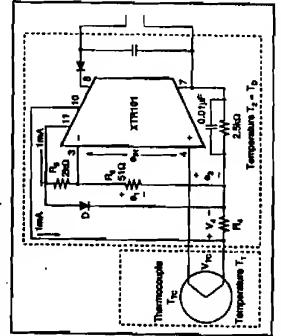


FIGURE 9. Circuit for Example 1.

**EXAMPLE 2**  
 Thermocouple Transducer shown in Figure 10.

Given a process with temperature limits of  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $+100^{\circ}\text{C}$ , configure the XTR101 to measure the temperature with a type E thermocouple that produces a  $58\text{mV}$  change for  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  change. Use a semiconductor diode for a cold junction compensation to make the measurement relative to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This is accomplished by supplying a compensating voltage  $V_{re}$  equal to that normally produced by the thermocouple with a "cold junction" ( $T_1$ ) at ambient. At a typical ambient of  $+25^{\circ}\text{C}$  this is  $1.28\text{mV}$  obtained from standard thermocouple tables with a reference junction of  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Transistor  $4\text{mA}$  for  $T_1 = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $20\text{mA}$  for  $T_1 = +100^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Note:  $\epsilon_{T_1} = \epsilon_2 - \epsilon_1$  indicates that  $T_1$  is relative to  $T_2$ .

**ESTABLISHING  $R_1$ :**

The input full scale span is  $58\text{mV}$  ( $\Delta V_{re} = 5.8\text{mV}$ ).

$R_1$  is found from equation (1)

$$R_1 = \frac{40}{\Delta V_{re}/\Delta \epsilon_{T_1} - 0.01615}$$

$$= \frac{40}{16mA/55mV - 0.01615} = \frac{40}{0.25599} = 15.392$$

**SELECTING  $R_2$ :**

$R_2$  is chosen to make the output  $4\text{mA}$  at  $T_1 = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $V_{re} = 1.28\text{mV}$ ) and  $T_0 = +25^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\epsilon_0 = 0.6\text{V}$ ). A circuit is shown in Figure 10.

$V_{re}$  will be  $-1.28\text{mV}$  when  $T_1 = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the reference junction is at  $+25^{\circ}\text{C}$  to make  $\epsilon_{T_1} = 0\text{mV}$ .  $V_{re,0}$  will be  $600\text{mV}$  ( $31/2051$ ) =  $14.2\text{mV}$

$$\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_2 - \epsilon_1 = V_{re} + V_1 - \epsilon_1$$

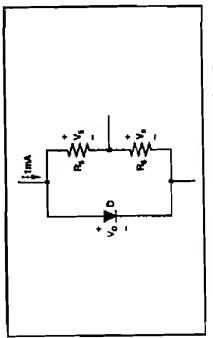


FIGURE 11. Cold Junction Compensation Circuit.

the thermocouple impedance goes very high. The circuits of Figures 16 and 17 inherently have lower scale indication. When the impedance of the thermocouple gets very large (open) the bias current flowing into the + input (large impedance) will cause  $I_0$  to go to its lower range limit value (about  $3.5\text{mA}$ ). If up scale indication is desired the circuit of Figure 18 should be used. When the  $T_1$  opens the output will go to its upper range limit value (about  $25\text{mA}$  or higher).

**OPTIONAL INPUT OFFSET VOLTAGE TRIM**

The XTR101 has provisions for nulling the input offset voltage associated with the input amplifiers. In many applications the already low offset voltages ( $20\text{mV}$  max for the B grade,  $60\text{mV}$  max for the A grade) will not need to be nullified at all. The null adjustment can be done with a potentiometer at pins 1, 2 and 14 as shown in Figures 5 and 6. Either of these two circuits may be used. NOTE: It is not recommended to use this input offset voltage nulling capability for elevation or suppression. See the Signal Suppression and Elevation section for the proper techniques.

**OPTIONAL BANDWIDTH CONTROL**

Low-pass filtering is recommended where possible and can be done by either one of two techniques shown in Figure 12.  $C_1$  connected to pins 1 and 4 will reduce the bandwidth with a cutoff frequency given by:

$$1.5.9$$

$$f_{\text{c}} = \frac{1}{(R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + R_4) C_1 + 3\text{pF}}$$

This method has the disadvantage of having  $f_{\text{c}}$  vary with  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $C_1$ . It may be necessary to take large values of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ . The other method, using  $C_2$ , will use smaller values of capacitance and is not a function of the input resistors. It is, however, more sensitive to nonlinear distortion caused by slew rate limiting. This is normally not a problem with the slow signals associated with most process control transducers. The relationship between  $C_1$  and  $f_{\text{c}}$  is shown in the Typical Performance Curves.

**TERMOUCOUPLE BURN-OUT INDICATION**

In process control applications it is desirable to detect when a thermocouple has "burned out". This is typically done by forcing the two-wire transmitter current to either limit when

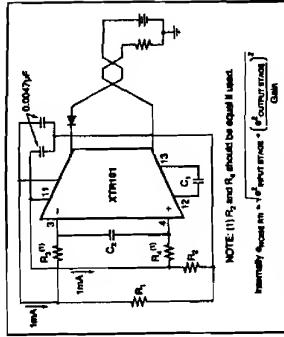


FIGURE 12. Optional Filtering.

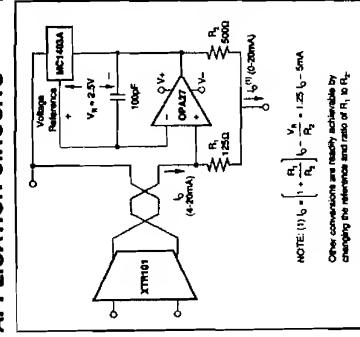
**APPLICATION CIRCUITS**


FIGURE 13. 0-20mA Output Converter.

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## INSTRUMENTATION AMPLIFIERS

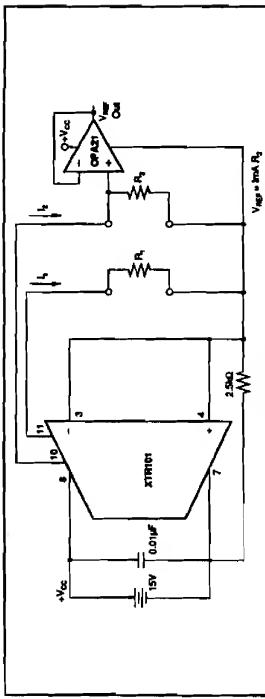


FIGURE 19. Dual Precision Current Sources Operated From One Supply.

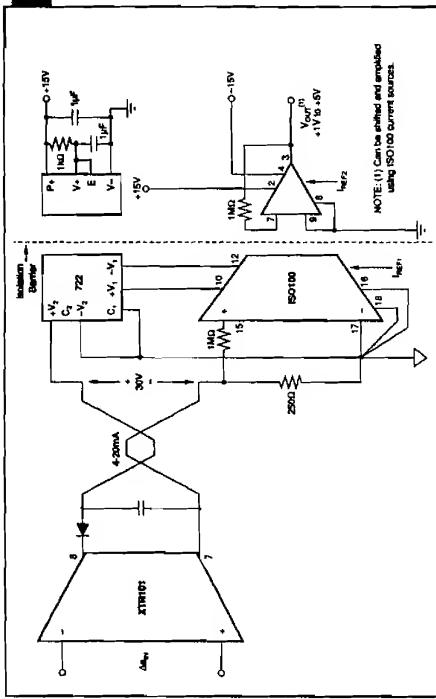


FIGURE 20. Isolated Two-Wire Current Loop.

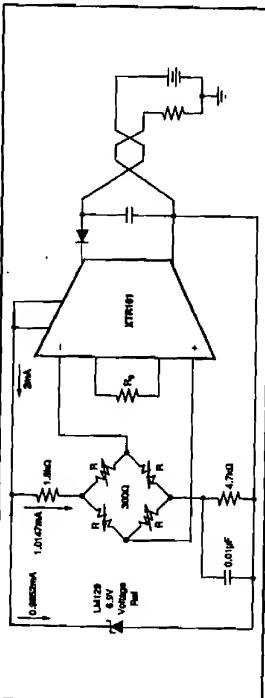


FIGURE 14. Bridge Input, Voltage Excitation.

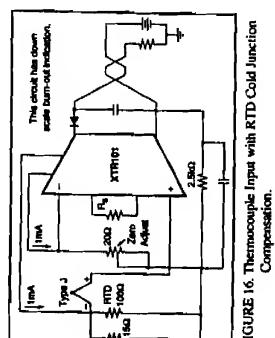


FIGURE 16. Thermocouple Input with RTD Cold Junction Compensation.

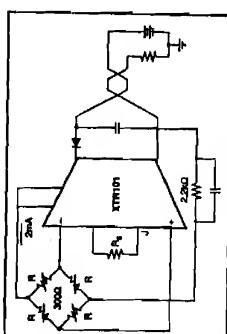


FIGURE 15. Bridge Input, Current Excitation.

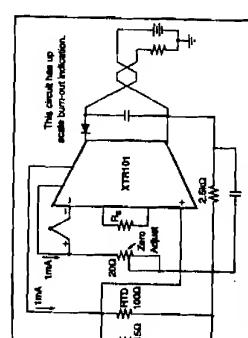


FIGURE 18. Thermocouple Input with RTD Cold Junction Compensation

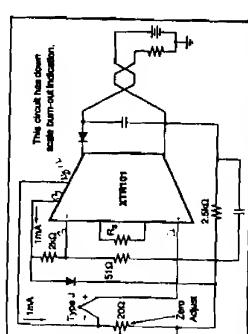


FIGURE 17. Thermocouple Input with Diode Cold Junction Compensation.

## DETAILED ERROR ANALYSIS

The ideal output current is

$$I_{O,IDEAL} = I_{IN,IDEAL} + K_{G,IDEAL}$$

K is the span (gain) term,  $(0.016A + 40V/A)$  (3)

In the XTR101 there are three major components of error:

1.  $I_{O,ERR}$  = errors associated with the output stage.2.  $I_{G,ERR}$  = errors associated with span adjustment.3.  $I_{IN,ERR}$  = errors associated with the input stage.

The transfer function including these errors is

$$I_{O,ERR} = (4mA + \sigma_0) + K(1 + \sigma_2)N_{G,ERR} + \sigma_3 \quad (4)$$

When this expression is expanded, second order terms ( $\sigma_2, \sigma_3$ ) dropped, and terms collected, the result is

$$I_{O,ERR} = (4mA + \sigma_0) + K_{G,ERR} + K_{G,ERR} \sigma_{IN} \quad (5)$$

The error in the output current is  $I_{O,ERR}$ ,  $I_{G,ERR}$ , and can be found by subtracting equations (5) and (3).

$$I_{O,ERR} = I_{O,IDEAL} + K_{G,ERR} \sigma_{IN} \quad (6)$$

This is a general error expression. The computation of each component of error depends on the circuitry inside the XTR101 and the particular circuit in which it is applied. The circuit of Figure 9 will be used to illustrate the principles.

$$1. I_{O,ERR} = I_{O,IN,ERR}$$

$$2. \sigma_0 = \sigma_{IN,COMMON} + \sigma_{IN,IN}$$

$$3. \sigma_1 = V_{IN,ERR} + (I_{IN,ERR} + I_{O,ERR}) + \frac{\Delta V_{CE}}{PSRR}$$

$$+ \frac{I_{G,ERR} \cdot \sigma_{IN}}{CMRR}$$

The term in parentheses may be written in terms of offset current and resistor mismatches as  $I_{IN,ERR} + I_{G,ERR} R_{IN}$ . $V_{IN,ERR}$  = input offset voltage $I_{IN,ERR}$  = input bias current $I_{G,ERR}$  = output offset current error $\Delta V_{CE}$  =  $R_{IN}$  -  $R_{G,ERR}$  mismatch in resistor $\Delta V_{CC}$  = change supply voltage in resistor pairs 7 and 8 away from 24V nominal

PSRR\* = power supply rejection ratio

CMRR\* = common-mode rejection ratio

 $\sigma_{IN,ERR}$  = span nonlinearities $\sigma_{IN,IN}$  = span equation error. Untrimmed error

= 5% max. May be trimmed to zero.

Items marked with an asterisk (\*) can be found in the Electrical Specifications.

## EXAMPLE 3

The circuit in Figure 9 with the XTR101BG specifications and the following conditions:  $R_{IN} = 109.4\Omega$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $R_{G,ERR} = 156.4\Omega$  at  $150^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $I_{IN} = 4mA$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $I_{O,ERR} = 20mA$  at  $150^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $R_{V,ERR} = 109.3\Omega$ ,  $R_{L} = 109.0\Omega$ ,  $R_{IN,ERR} = 250\Omega$ ,  $R_{G,ERR} = 100\Omega$ ,  $V_{IN} = 0.6V$ ,  $V_{O,ERR} = 24V \pm 0.5\%$ . Determine the % error at the upper and lower range values.

## EXPLANATION

The circuit in Figure 9 with the XTR101BG specifications and the following conditions:  $R_{IN} = 109.4\Omega$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $R_{G,ERR} = 156.4\Omega$  at  $150^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $I_{IN} = 4mA$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $I_{O,ERR} = 20mA$  at  $150^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $R_{V,ERR} = 109.3\Omega$ ,  $R_{L} = 109.0\Omega$ ,  $R_{IN,ERR} = 250\Omega$ ,  $R_{G,ERR} = 100\Omega$ ,  $V_{IN} = 0.6V$ ,  $V_{O,ERR} = 24V \pm 0.5\%$ . Determine the % error at the upper and lower range values.A. AT THE LOWER RANGE VALUE ( $T = +25^\circ\text{C}$ )

$$I_{O,ERR} = 1_{IN,ERR} = 4mA$$

$$\sigma_1 = 30\mu A + (150mA \times 47\Omega + 20mA \times 109\Omega)$$

$$+ \frac{\Delta V_{CE}}{PSRR}$$

$$+ \frac{(I_{G,ERR} \cdot \sigma_{IN})}{CMRR}$$

$$AR = R_{V,ERR} - R_{L}$$

$$= V_{O,ERR} + (I_{IN,ERR} \Delta R + I_{O,ERR} R_L) + \frac{\Delta V_{CE}}{PSRR}$$

$$+ \frac{(I_{G,ERR} \cdot \sigma_{IN})}{CMRR}$$

$$AR = R_{V,ERR} - R_L$$

$$= 109.4 - 109.0 = 0.6V$$

$$\Delta V_{CE} = (24V \times 0.005) + 6mA \times (250\Omega + 100\Omega) + 0.6V$$

$$= 212mV + (440mV \times 6mA)$$

$$= 212mV$$

$$\sigma_2 = (2mA \times 2.5\Omega) + (1mA \times 109\Omega) = 5.109V$$

$$\sigma_3 = (2mA \times 2.5\Omega) + (1mA \times 109\Omega)$$

$$= 5.109V$$

$$(I_{G,ERR} = 5mA \times 47\Omega = 0.1092V)$$

$$PSRR = 3.16 \times 10^6 \text{ for } 110dB$$

$$CMRR = 31.6 \times 10^6 \text{ for } 90dB$$

$$\sigma_1 = 30mA + (150mA \times 0 + 20mA \times 109\Omega)$$

$$+ \frac{212mV}{2.12mV} + \frac{0.1092V}{3.16 \times 10^6}$$

$$= 30mA + 2.18mV + 6.74mV + 3.64mV$$

$$= 42.34mV$$

$$\sigma_2 = \sigma_{IN,COMMON} + \sigma_{IN,IN}$$

$$= 0.0001 + 0 \text{ (assumes trim of } R_{IN})$$

$$I_{O,ERR} = \sigma_0 + K \cdot \sigma_1 + K \cdot \sigma_2 \sigma_{IN}$$

$$K = 0.016 + \frac{40}{R_{IN}} = 0.016 + \frac{40}{123.3\Omega} = 0.340V$$

$$\sigma_{IN} = \sigma_1 = I_{IN,ERR} = I_{IN,25^\circ\text{C}} - I_{IN,150^\circ\text{C}} R_{IN}$$

$$\text{since } R_{IN,25^\circ\text{C}} = R_{IN,150^\circ\text{C}}$$

$$\sigma_{IN} = (I_{IN,ERR} - I_{IN}) R_{IN} = 0.4mA \times 109\Omega$$

$$= 43.61V$$

$$\text{Since the maximum mismatch of the current references is}$$

$$0.04\% \text{ of } 1mA = 0.4\mu A,$$

$$I_{O,ERR} = 6mA + (0.34V \times 4.234\mu A) + (0.34V \times$$

$$0.0001 \times 43.61V) = 6mA + 14.40\mu A + 0.0015\mu A$$

$$= 20.40\mu A$$

$$\% \text{ error} = \frac{20.40\mu A}{16mA} \times 100\%$$

0.13% of span at lower range value.

B. AT THE UPPER RANGE VALUE ( $T = +150^\circ\text{C}$ )

$$\Delta R = R_{V,150^\circ\text{C}} - R_{V,25^\circ\text{C}} = 156.4 - 109.4 = 47\Omega$$

$$\Delta V_{CE} = (24V \times 0.005) + 20mA \times (250\Omega + 109\Omega) +$$

$$0.6V = 772mV$$

$$C_1 = 5.109V$$

$$C_2 = (2mA \times 2.5\Omega) + (1mA \times 156.4\Omega) = 5.145V$$

$$(I_{G,ERR} = 5mA \times 47\Omega = 0.1325V$$

## INSTRUMENTATION AMPLIFIERS

## XTR101

## RECOMMENDED HANDLING

## PROCEDURES FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

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All semiconductor devices are vulnerable, in varying degrees, to damage from the discharge of electrostatic energy. Such damage can cause permanent degradation or failure, either immediate or latent. As a general practice, we recommend the following handling procedures to reduce the risk of electrostatic damage.

## 1. Remove the static-generating materials, such as untreated plastic, from all areas that handle microcircuits.

## 2. Ground all operators, equipment, and work stations.

## 3. Transport and ship microcircuits, or products incorporating microcircuits, in static-free, shielded containers.

## 4. Connect together all leads of each device by means of a conductive material, when the device is not connected into a circuit.

## 5. Control relative humidity to as high a value as practical (50% recommended).

## CONCLUSIONS

## 4

Lower Range: From equation (10) it is observed that the predominant error term is the input offset voltage ( $30\mu A$ ) for

the XTR101. This is of little consequence in many applications. You can, however, be misled using the pot shown in Figures 5 and 6. The result is an error of 0.06% of span instead of 0.13% if span.

## 5

## CONCLUSIONS

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